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NIO # 1897-75

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

19 August 1975

Brigadier General James M. Thompson, USA
Deputy Director for Estimates
Defense Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Jim:

With regard to your letter of 30 July, the concerns you expressed on behalf of Ambassador Ellsworth and the Joint Staff are ones we share and certainly consider warranted. We have, therefore, given careful attention to the suggested project outlined in your letter's enclosure and the National Intelligence Officer for the Middle East is incorporating your specific questions into his already initiated work program on the Middle East military balance over the next decade.

As you doubtless realize, there has been insufficient research and analysis of the present balance of power and this will slow our effort to develop sound conclusions about the balance of power in the 1980s. The NIO for the Middle East believes that work already underway should soon yield some properly researched and carefully analyzed conclusions concerning the near-term balance and we should be able to develop some community studies on the long-term balance within a few months.

Our immediate efforts are devoted to the definition of the problem and developing a work program that will allow an orderly progression of analytical tasks to involve the elements of the Intelligence Community best qualified to work on the various parts of the problem. The tentative plan is for the NIO to chair an interagency committee that will organize into interagency working groups. These working groups should develop sufficient material for one or two interagency memoranda by mid- to late fall. We then envision drafting a National Intelligence Estimate based on the results of the interagency study.

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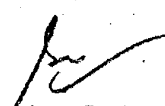
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The NIO for the Middle East, [REDACTED] will be in contact with you and the Defense Intelligence Officer to work out the details of the project. It would be helpful if you would consider what DIA can do in funding some outside analytical effort and the related work programs you plan within your DE and DI elements. ||

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Sincerely yours,


George A. Carver, Jr.

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Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

cc: Mr. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

O/D/DCI/NIO: [REDACTED] /GACarver/mec

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